

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00582 041720Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-07
/101 W

-----087500 041928Z /47

R 031620Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3449
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, NA
SUBJECT: ARUBA BOYCOTTS CURACAO SOMEWHAT

REF: CURACAO 0579

SUMMARY. CROES CONTINUES EFFORTS TO DRAMATIZE ARUBAN DESIRES FOR INDEPENDENCE. BOYCOTT IN EFFECT ALTHOUGH IT EXEMPTS MAJOR NECESSITIES. SUCH AS BEER, FLOUR, COOKING OIL, NEWS-PAPERS AND TV. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CURACAO AND ARUBA ARE INTERRUPTED AT ARUBA END TO LET THROUGH ONLY "APPROVED" CALLS AND MESSAGES. NAG CONCERNED ENOUGH TO SEND ARUBA POLICE ADDITIONAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION AND PLAN FOR TROUBLE, BUT HAS NOT YET DETERMINED TO MOVE AGAINST CROES UNDER SEDITION STATUTE. BOTH CROES AND NAG ARE SHOWING ENOUGH AMBIVALENCE AND RESTRAINT TO FORESTALL ANY MAJOR DISTURBANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. SHORTLY AFTER CURACAO 0579 TRANSMITTED, CROES ANNOUNCED BY RADIO THAT EXEMPT FROM BOYCOTT OF CURACAO PRODUCTS WOULD BE BEER (WE KNEW SOMETHING HAD TO GIVE THERE), FLOUR AND COOKING OIL. NEWSPAPERS AND TV ORIGINATING IN CURACAO ARE ALSO STILL BEING ALLOWED INTO ARUBA. CROES SAYS THEY ARE
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NECESSARY TO KEEP PEOPLE INFORMED. HE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT IF THEY PUBLISH ANTI-ARUBA MATERIAL, THEY TOO WILL BE BOYCOTTED.

2. TWO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICER HERE EVENING AUGUST 1 DESCRIBED CROES' CALL FOR BOYCOTT AS "SILLY." THEY SAID CROES USUALLY DOES NOT FORESEE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXEMPTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE

ONLY PROVES THAT HE ALREADY REALIZES HE CANNOT CARRY HIS SUPPORTERS INTO A PROGRAM THAT WILL HURT THEM, PARTICULARLY IN POCKETBOOKS.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING FOREGOING CONFIDENT VIEW, SOME NAG OFFICIALS APPARENTLY TAKING MATTER MORE SERIOUSLY. ATTORNEY GENERAL NAHR TOLD CONGEN THAT TRUCK FULL OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION DESTINED FOR ARUBA POLICE LOADED ON INTER-ISLAND FERRY EVENING AUGUST 1. NAG HAD TO SEND ARMS BY FERRY EARLIER THAN NAG HAD WANTED BECAUSE AUTHORITIES FEARED ARUBANS MIGHT BLOCK AIRPORT RUNWAYS AND, BY DOING SO, MAKE THIS RE-SUPPLY OF POLICE IMPOSSIBLE.

4. NAG WORRIES ABOUT SITUATION STEM FROM FACTS THAT CROES IS APPARENTLY CAPABLE OF ANYTHING, IS SURROUNDED BY HOODLUMS WHO CAN STIR UP HIS FOLLOWERS AND THEY, IN NAHR'S WORDS, ARE TOO NAIVE TO KNOW CROES' SCHEMES CANNOT SUCCEED. ALSO, AT TIME OUR CONVERSATION NAG HAD INSUFFICIENT MEANS OF OBTAINING TIMELY INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS (SEE PARA 5 BELOW); THIS SITUATION NOW CORRECTED BY INSTALLATION NEW MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO ARUBA POLICE STATION (WHICH IS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, NOT TO LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, WHICH IS NOT). NAHR SAID THAT HE HAS GIVEN ORDER FOR CROES' ARREST IF ANY VIOLENCE WHATEVER OCCURS. NAHR ALSO SAID DECISION NOT YET MADE ON WHETHER TO SEEK PROSECUTION OF CROES UNDER STATUTE THAT MAKES CRIMINAL AND PUNISHABLE BY LIFE IMPRISONMENT ACTIONS AIMED AT DESTROYING UNITY OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. POLICE COMMISSIONER
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OLDENBOOM, FAR MORE RELAXED THAN NAHR, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SITUATION WILL NOT GET OUT OF HAND AND THAT POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS IN ANY CASE.

5. ON AUGUST 2 TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ARUBA AND CURACAO WERE INTERRUPTED. CURACAO-ARUBA CALLS WERE COMPLETELY BLOCKED; ARUBA-CURACAO CALLS WERE OPEN ONLY TO APPROVED (NOT CLEAR BY WHOM) CALLERS FOR APPROVED MESSAGES.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE SOME NAG NERVOUSNESS, WHICH TRACES TO FEARS THAT CURRENT CROES' ANTICS MAY CAUSE A 1969-TYPE DISTURBANCE IN ARUBA, SITUATION SEEMS UNLIKELY TO OVERHEAT SOON. EXEMPTIONS FROM BOYCOTT EFFECTIVELY REMOVE PAIN THAT MIGHT PROVIDE DISTURBANCE. EVEN CROES IS MAKING EFFORT NOT TO DISTURB ARUBA'S MAJOR INDUSTRY, TOURISM. AND NAG, BY ISSUING PERMIT FOR RALLY, KEEPING POLICE OUT OF SIGHT, AND GENERALLY ACTING AS IF LITTLE IS GOING ON AGAINST NAG, IS CAREFULLY AVOIDING CONFRONTATION WITH CROES.

7. REPORT OF CONOFF WHO ATTENDED AUGUST 2 RALLY FOLLOWS BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.
PENBERTHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, BOYCOTTS, PARTY LEADERS, ARUBA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708103/aaaadjgo.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CURACAO 579
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1408889
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARUBA BOYCOTTS CURACAO SOMEWHAT
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NA, (CROES, BETICO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b493144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009